

News Release



**Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES INVENTORY IN MILL NECK CREEK AT OYSTER BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE”

The Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex received funding through its Northeast Regional Office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a biological inventory at Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The inventory will specifically focus on Mill Neck Creek, a 297 acre coastal bay within the refuge boundaries. The Refuge Complex entered into a cooperative grant agreement with the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences of Stony Brook University to carry out the inventory. Field sampling will commence in mid-May and continue through August to assess the invertebrate and fish communities with trawl surveys and seining. Benthic sampling will also be conducted and water quality will be monitored. Additional laboratory analysis will be done to identify invertebrates and characterize benthic sediments.

The results of this inventory will provide Refuge staff with current data and better knowledge of the biological resources in Mill Neck Creek, which will help to improve habitat management and wildlife protection throughout Oyster Bay NWR. The Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge is a primarily marine refuge with approximately 3,200 acres of sub-tidal habitats and smaller parcels of tidal salt marsh and freshwater wetlands. The refuge provides important habitat for migratory waterfowl, marine mammals and other wildlife, and is designated as a significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat in New York State.

For further information, contact the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex Headquarters at the Wertheim NWR, 340 Smith Rd., Shirley, NY 11967, 631-286-0485.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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